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# UTILITY PATENT APPLICATION TRANSMITTAL

(Only for new nonprovisional applications under 37 CFR 1.53(h))

Attorney Docket No. 30349

Total Pages 26

First Named Inventor or Application Identifier

Scott D. Maurer

Express Mail Label No.

EL294367009US

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06/22/99

## APPLICATION ELEMENTS

See MPEP chapter 600 concerning utility patent application contents.

## ADDRESS TO:

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Box Patent Application  
Washington, DC 202311. ☒ Fee Transmittal Form  
(Submit an original, and a duplicate for fee processing)2. ☒ Specification [Total Pages 19]  
(preferred arrangement set forth below)

- Descriptive title of the invention
- Cross References to Related Applications
- Statement Regarding Fed sponsored R & D
- Reference to Microfiche Appendix
- Background of the invention
- Brief Summary of the invention
- Brief Description of the Drawings (if filed)
- Detailed Description
- Claim(s)
- Abstract of the Disclosure

3. ☒ Drawing(s) (35 USC 113) [Total Sheets 5]

4. Oath or Declaration [Total Pages 2]

- a. ☒ Newly executed (original or copy)
- b. ☐ Copy from a prior application (37 CFR 1.63(d))  
(for continuation/divisional with Box 17 completed)  
(Note Box 5 below)

i. ☐ DELETION OF INVENTOR(S)  
Signed statement attached deleting  
inventor(s) named in the prior application,  
see 37 CFR 1.63(d)(2) and 1.33(b).

5. ☐ Incorporation By Reference (useable if Box 4b is checked)  
The entire disclosure of the prior application, from which a  
copy of the oath or declaration is supplied under Box 4b,  
is considered as being part of the disclosure of the  
accompanying application and is hereby incorporated by  
reference therein.

6. ☐ Microfiche Computer Program (Appendix)7. Nucleotide and/or Amino Acid Sequence Submission  
(if applicable, all necessary)

- a. ☐ Computer Readable Copy
- b. ☐ Paper Copy (identical to computer copy)
- c. ☐ Statement verifying identity of above copies

## ACCOMPANYING APPLICATION PARTS

- 8. ☐ Assignment Papers (cover sheet & document(s))
- 9. ☐ 37 CFR 3.73(b) Statement ☐ Power of Attorney  
(when there is an assignee)
- 10. ☐ English Translation Document (if applicable)
- 11. ☐ Information Disclosure ☐ Copies of IDS  
Statement (IDS)/PTO-1449 Citations
- 12. ☐ Preliminary Amendment
- 13. ☒ Return Receipt Postcard (MPEP 503)  
(Should be specifically itemized)
- 14. ☒ Small Entity ☐ Statement filed in prior application,  
Statement(s) Status still proper and desired
- 15. ☐ Certified Copy of Priority Document(s)  
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**PATENT**

**PEARNE, GORDON, McCOY & GRANGER**  
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Attorney Docket No. 30349

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Box PATENT APPLICATION  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Transmitted herewith for filing by a small entity is the patent application of:

Inventor: Scott D. Maurer

For: ARCHITECTURAL MOLDING

A Small Entity Declaration and two photocopies thereof are enclosed.

Five (5) sheets of formal drawings are included.

"Express Mail" mailing label number EL294367009US

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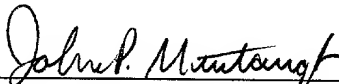
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Total claims in excess of 20:	5	× \$9.00	\$45.00
Independent claims in excess of 3:	3	× \$39.00	\$117.00
Multiple dependent claims, if any, add surcharge of \$135.00:			\$0.00
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Respectfully,

PEARNE, GORDON, McCOY & GRANGER

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
John P. Murtaugh, Reg. No. 34226

Date: 6-22-99

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Scott D. Maurer  
Title: ARCHITECTURAL MOLDING  
Docket No: 30349

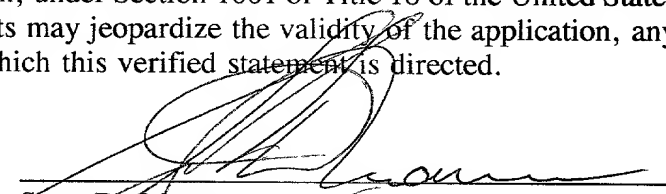
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I hereby declare that I am an independent inventor for purposes of paying reduced fees to the Patent and Trademark Office with regard to the above-entitled invention, described in the specification filed herewith.

I have not assigned, granted, conveyed or licensed, and am under no obligation under contract or law to assign, grant, convey or license, any rights in the invention to any person or to any concern which would not qualify as a small business concern or a non-profit organization.

I acknowledge the duty to file, in this application, notification of any change in status resulting in loss of entitlement to small entity status prior to paying, or at the time of paying, the earliest of the issue fee or any maintenance fee due after the date on which status as a small entity is no longer appropriate.

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code, and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application, any patent issuing thereon, or any patent to which this verified statement is directed.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Scott D. Maurer  
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Date: 6/22/99

## ARCHITECTURAL MOLDING

### BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

This invention relates to architectural molding installed at the base, mid-portion or top of an architectural wall and, in particular, to a molding composed of flexible plastic foam.

Decorative moldings are routinely used in architecture to provide decoration and to cover various raw edges and imperfections. Such moldings are most commonly made of wood, but other rigid materials have been employed. In general, such materials are relatively expensive and installation of the molding has required substantial skill as a workman.

U.S. Patent No. 5,496,512 shows thin molded plastic (e.g., polystyrene) molding strips for application to walls. The molding strips rely on thinness to provide flexibility and are either vacuum or pressure molded. A central portion of the molding is attached to the wall and one or more of the edges of the molding are resiliently flexed into snug engagement with the wall. The molding is installed using overlapped joints. There is a need for more effective architectural molding and architectural molding which is easier to install.

### SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

An architectural molding includes an extruded flexible plastic foam member having a front side, a rear side and a cross sectional profile. Also included is a layer of pressure sensitive adhesive affixed to at least a portion of the rear side and a release strip releasibly adhered to the layer of pressure sensitive adhesive.

A method for installing the architectural molding to a structure includes providing the molding; removing a portion of the release strip to expose a portion of the pressure sensitive adhesive; adhering the exposed portion to the structure; flexing

1 a portion of the molding not yet adhered to the structure away  
2 from the structure and removing an additional portion of the  
3 release strip to expose an additional portion of the pressure  
4 sensitive adhesive; and adhering the additional portion to the  
5 structure.

6 A tool for the application of an architectural molding  
7 between a wall and a ceiling, where the molding has a front side,  
8 a rear side and a cross sectional profile. The tool includes a  
9 ceiling following surface; a wall following surface; a profile  
10 following surface; and a handle, the handle providing a manual  
11 grip for sliding the tool along a wall and ceiling intersection  
12 and the profile following surface providing pressure resistive  
13 support to a central portion of the profile, while permitting  
14 respective outer portions of the profile to be pressed against  
15 the wall and the ceiling.

16 A method for installing the architectural molding between  
17 a wall and a ceiling using the tool is also provided. The method  
18 includes placing the tool against the intersection; removing a  
19 portion of the release strip to expose a wall portion and a  
20 ceiling portion of the pressure sensitive adhesive; placing the  
21 central portion against the profile following surface and  
22 adhering the wall portion to the wall and the ceiling portion to  
23 the ceiling; flexing a portion of the molding not yet adhered to  
24 the wall or ceiling away from the wall or ceiling, respectively,  
25 and removing an additional portion of the release strip to expose  
26 an additional portion of the pressure sensitive adhesive; sliding  
27 the tool to cooperate with the flexed portion; and adhering the  
28 additional portion of the pressure sensitive adhesive to the wall  
29 or ceiling.

30 An architectural molding adapter includes an elongate sheet  
31 of plastic material having a back side and a front side; a  
32 plurality of longitudinal fold grooves in the sheet; a pressure  
33 sensitive adhesive affixed to longitudinal peripheral portions  
34 of the back side; and a release strip releasibly adhered to the  
35 pressure sensitive adhesive, the adapter being adapted to provide

1 an intermediate attachment point for multiple rows of crown  
2 molding when the adapter is folded along a plurality of the fold  
3 grooves into a generally rectangular cross section structure when  
4 attached to a wall and ceiling.

5 A method for installing multiple rows of pressure sensitive  
6 adhesive backed crown molding using the adapter is also provided.

7 BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

8 FIG. 1 is a cross sectional perspective view of an installed  
9 molding according to the invention for a top portion of a wall.

10 FIG. 2 is a cross sectional perspective view of an installed  
11 molding according to the invention for a mid-portion of a wall.

12 FIG. 3 is a cross sectional perspective view of an installed  
13 molding according to the invention for a base portion of a wall.

14 FIG. 4 is a perspective view of a package containing a  
15 molding according to the invention.

16 FIG. 5 is a cross sectional longitudinal elevation view of  
17 nested layers of molding according to the invention.

18 FIG. 6 is a longitudinal elevation view (with many elements  
19 shown in cross section) showing a tool in use for installing  
20 molding according to the invention.

21 FIG. 7 is a perspective view showing a tool in use for  
22 installing molding according to the invention.

23 FIG. 8 is a longitudinal elevation view or end view of an  
24 adapter for installing multiple rows of molding according to the  
25 invention.

26 FIG. 9 is a cross sectional longitudinal elevation view of  
27 the adapter of FIG. 8 in use with moldings according to the  
28 invention.

29 FIG. 10 is a cross sectional view of a molding according to  
30 the invention.

1        DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS OF THE INVENTION

2            When a range such as 5-25 is given, this means preferably  
3        at least 5 and preferably not more than 25.

4            Referring to FIG. 1, an architectural molding 10 is shown  
5        installed between a top portion of a wall 12 and the edge of a  
6        ceiling 14. Moldings at this location are often referred to as  
7        crown moldings. The molding 10 includes an extruded flexible  
8        plastic foam member 16 having a cross section or cross sectional  
9        profile 18 and a rear side or surface 20 and a front side or  
10       surface 22. The front side or surface 22, when viewed in cross  
11       section (such as looking down the longitudinal length of the  
12       molding), determines the front surface profile of the molding.  
13       Correspondingly, the rear side or surface 20 determines or  
14       defines a rear surface profile. In the preferred embodiment, the  
15       cross sectional profile 18 is constant along the longitudinal  
16       direction of the member 16; that is, if you look at the cross  
17       sectional profile 18 every few feet as you travel down the length  
18       of member 16, the profile 18 will remain the same.

19           The member 16 is provided with one or more layers of  
20        pressure sensitive adhesive. For example, pressure sensitive  
21        adhesive layers 24, 26 may be affixed on the rear side 20 on  
22        outer or edge portions of the molding 10 that will contact the  
23        wall or ceiling. Referring to FIG. 7, a release strip 28, 29 is  
24        initially adhered to each area or layer of pressure sensitive  
25        adhesive to protect the adhesive until installation of the  
26        molding 10.

27           The member 16 is extruded in continuous lengths having a  
28        constant cross sectional profile 18. The extrusion process  
29        ordinarily results in a constant, unchanging cross sectional  
30        profile. Fig. 1 illustrates a compound cove crown molding (see  
31        the front surface profile). Other types of moldings having a  
32        continuously constant or uniform cross section and front surface  
33        profile can be utilized, such as, the following types of molding



(these being determined by the front surface profile): crown, cove, fillet and fascia, torus, reeding, cavetto, scotia, conge and beak. Various front surface profiles for crown and cove moldings can be used, such as those illustrated in molding catalogues from Hiland Wood Products, Walnut Creek, Ohio and American Hardwood, Columbia Station, Ohio, which are known in the art and which are incorporated herein by reference. The member 16 is preferably a low density, closed cell, thermoplastic flexible foam that is resiliently compressible and resiliently flexible. The flexible plastic foam preferably has a density of 1.6-3, more preferably about 2, lbs. per cubic foot, preferably less than 9, 7, 6, 5, 4 and 3 lbs./cu. ft. The flexible foam is resilient and can be easily bent and compressed and will then return to its original shape. The flexible plastic foam is preferably polyethylene, rubber latex, polypropylene, polyurethane, polyvinyl chloride or polyolefin flexible plastic foam, more preferably polyethylene flexible plastic foam, preferably made with an isobutane blowing agent. The extruded flexible plastic foam is preferably polyethylene, less preferably substantially or principally or predominantly polyethylene or the major proportion of which is polyethylene. Such polyethylene foams are available as Nomafoam from Nomaco, Inc., Zebulon, NC.

The layer of pressure sensitive adhesive 24, 26 may be applied to the member 16 either while member 16 is being made or at a later time. In the preferred embodiment, the adhesive may be, for example, a hot melt pressure sensitive adhesive applied hot (such as 350°F) to the member 16 and becoming affixed thereto as the adhesive cools. A suitable adhesive is available from H.B. Fuller Company, St. Paul, MN, as HL-8209 DR. Preferably, the pressure sensitive adhesive is high heat resistant, permanent grade with a 180 degree peel (60 sec./75F, 1 mil.) of at least 5, more preferably at least 6 or 7, lbs./inch, polyken tack of at least 1500 grams, loop tack of at least 50, 70 or 90 ounces. The release strips 29, 28 are releasibly adhered to the adhesive 24, 26, respectively. It is also possible to affix the adhesive

1 in other ways, such as applying the adhesive to the release strip  
2 and then applying the adhesive/release strip from web-like rolls.

3 The member 16 may be pre-colored to desired colors by adding  
4 coloring to the plastic foam material prior to extruding. This  
5 produces a front side 22 suitable for use without further  
6 painting, coating, etc.

7 One may also apply a primer to the front side 22 either  
8 during manufacturing (pre-primed) or at the job site to make the  
9 molding 10 paintable (including techniques such as "wood-  
10 graining"). A primer such as Chil-Perm CP-30 from Childers  
11 Products Company may be used. The primed surface may then be  
12 painted.

13 It is also possible to treat the front surface 22 with  
14 corona charge for corona treatment. This electrostatic treatment  
15 allows paint to adhere directly to the surface 22 without a  
16 primer coating. Alternatively the front surface can be treated  
17 with corona charge in-line at the manufacturing facility, and a  
18 flexible and quick dry paint or primer can also be applied in-  
19 line.

20 In the preferred embodiment, the molding 10 is produced,  
21 packaged and sold in at least 30 foot lengths and, typically, in  
22 lengths of at least 50, 75, 100 and 120 feet. The profile 18 is  
23 typically in the range of 3/16-3/4, more preferably 1/4-1/2, more  
24 preferably about 3/8, inch in thickness (and 2 to 8 or 3 to 6 or  
25 about 4.5 inches wide, that is, from the tip near layer 24 to the  
26 tip near layer 26). This thickness allows segments of the  
27 molding 10 to be joined with either butt or mitered joints. The  
28 molding 10 can be accurately cut with a cutting guide such as a  
29 miter guide with a hand-held serrated knife. The thickness of  
30 the molding 10, when cut, provides a wide attachment face or  
31 bonding surface for butt or miter joints to product precise  
32 uniform attachments. The thickness also may be chosen to provide  
33 sufficient strength to span the space between the wall 12 and the  
34 ceiling 14. The resilience of the molding 10 promotes tight  
35 joints. The joints may be glued with a suitable adhesive (e.g.,

FD-8133 manufactured by H.B. Fuller Company) or heat bonded.

Referring to FIG. 4, the molding 10 may be packaged in rolls within a box 30 such as a cardboard box. An opening or slot 32 in the box 30 may be used to dispense the molding 10 as it is installed. For example, in the case of 4.5 inch wide crown molding, a 30 x 30 x 5 inch box can hold at least 120 feet of the molding 10. The weight of such a package and molding combined would typically be less than 6 pounds. Preferably, the front side 22 of the molding 10 faces the inside of the roll (as shown in Fig. 4) to facilitate installation. Preferably, the molding 10 comes out of the box "right-handed", that is, as it comes out of the box you start on the right side of the wall and work to the left. During this process the molding comes out of the box properly oriented so that the top of the molding is against the ceiling and the bottom is against the wall. In this way the molding is coming out of the box "right-handed". Fig. 4 shows the molding 10 coming out of the box "left-handed".

Referring to FIG. 5, the profile of the molding 10 may be advantageously chosen to provide nesting between the layers 10a, 10b, 10c, 10d of a roll of the molding 10. This nesting maximizes the amount of the molding 10 in a given roll diameter and minimizes the likelihood of creases in the surface of the molding 10. Preferably, nesting is achieved by providing a front surface profile which matches or substantially matches or matches in significant portions the rear surface profile. Typically this will result when the cross sectional profile 18 is of substantially or generally uniform thickness.

Referring to FIGS. 1 and 7, the molding 10 may be installed by removing a portion of the release strips 28, 29 to expose portions of the pressure sensitive adhesive 24, 26. The exposed portions are then adhered to the ceiling/wall structure and a portion of the molding 10 that is not yet adhered to the structure is flexed away from the structure and more of the release strips 28, 29 are removed to expose an additional portion of the adhesive 24, 26. The additional exposed portions are then

1 adhered to the structure.

2 Typically, it may be desirable to apply an aesthetic coating  
3 such as paint to the molding 10 after it is adhered to the  
4 structure.

5 Referring to FIGS. 6 and 7, a tool 40 for easier  
6 installation of the molding 10 includes a ceiling following  
7 surface 42, a wall following surface 44, a profile following  
8 surface 46 and a handle 48. In the preferred embodiment, the  
9 tool 40 is formed from an element 50 having a generally right  
10 angle cross section. The element 50 may be formed from, for  
11 example, a sheet of metal or rigid plastic and is preferably of  
12 constant width as shown in Fig. 7. With reference to Fig. 6, the  
13 element 50 extends from the handle 48 upward to the curved  
14 portion 51 and across to near the tip 53 of the tool 40. The  
15 element 50 has a first outside surface corresponding to the  
16 surface 42 and a second outside surface corresponding to the  
17 surface 44. A block of plastic foam 52 (preferably flexible  
18 polyethylene foam) attached to the inside surfaces of the element  
19 50 provides the surface 46. The surface 46 matches the contour  
20 of the central portion 54 of the rear side 20 of the profile 18.  
21 Less preferably the portion of element 50 corresponding to  
22 surface 42 may be omitted and block 52 may be of other materials  
23 such as solid plastic. The tool 40 is shaped so that the two  
24 tips (one of which is tip 53) do not stick out far enough to  
25 contact the pressure sensitive adhesive 24, 26.

26 The handle 48 is provided by an extension from the element  
27 50. The handle 48 is shown extending from the surface 44, but  
28 it is also possible to extend from the surface 42.

29 In use, the tool 40 is manually grasped by the handle 48 and  
30 the tool placed against the intersection of the wall 12 and the  
31 ceiling 14. A portion of the release strips 28, 29 is removed  
32 to expose portions of the pressure sensitive adhesive 24, 26.  
33 The central portion 54 is placed against the surface 46. This  
34 guides the molding 10 into the correct position relative to the  
35 wall 12 and the ceiling 14 and provides pressure resistive

1 support to the central portion 54 while allowing the manual  
2 pressing of the adhesive 24, 26 against the wall 12 and ceiling  
3 14, respectively.

4 The exposed portions are adhered to the wall 12 and the  
5 ceiling 14, respectively, and a portion of the molding 10 that  
6 is not yet adhered to the wall or ceiling is flexed away from the  
7 wall or ceiling and more of the release strips 28, 29 are removed  
8 to expose additional portions of the adhesive 24, 26. The tool  
9 40 is slid and repositioned to cooperate with the flexed portion  
10 as the flexed portion is positioned by the surface 46 for  
11 adhering. The additional exposed portions are then adhered to  
12 the wall 12 and the ceiling 14. In this manner the tool 40 is  
13 progressively slid along the top of the wall and a long  
14 continuous length of molding 10 is adhered in place.

15 Referring to FIG. 2, a molding 10' similar to the molding  
16 10 of FIG. 1 is shown installed on a mid-portion of the wall 12.  
17 Moldings at this location are often referred to as chair rails.  
18 The rear side 20' of the molding 10' is generally flat and like  
19 the molding 10, is provided with pressure sensitive adhesive  
20 (unshown) for adhering the molding 10' to the wall 12. The  
21 molding 10' may be manufactured and packaged the same way as the  
22 molding 10 and installed similarly. In uninstalled form, the  
23 molding 10' is also provided with at least one release strip.

24 A preferred chair rail or panel molding 74 is shown in Fig.  
25 10, which is designed for convenient nesting. Molding 74  
26 (preferably 1.5 inches from top to bottom) has a front surface  
27 76 and a rear surface 78, the lower flat portion of which is  
28 coated with a layer of pressure sensitive adhesive 80 for  
29 adhesion to a wall.

30 Referring to FIG. 3, a molding 10'' similar to the molding  
31 10 of FIG. 1 is shown installed on a base portion of the wall 12.  
32 Moldings at this location are often referred to as base molding  
33 or baseboard molding. The rear side 20'' of the molding 10'' is  
34 generally flat and like the molding 10, is provided with pressure  
35 sensitive adhesive (unshown) for adhering the molding 10'' to the

1 wall 12. Pressure sensitive adhesive may be applied along the  
2 entire rear side 20'', or in strips, such as strips along the  
3 top, middle and bottom of side 20''. Pressure sensitive adhesive  
4 may also be applied along the bottom surface 21 of molding 10''.  
5 The molding 10'' may be manufactured and packaged the same way  
6 as the molding 10 and installed similarly. In uninstalled form  
7 the molding 10'' is also provided with a release strip over each  
8 strip of pressure sensitive adhesive. Other front surface  
9 profiles for chair rail moldings and base moldings can be used,  
10 such as those illustrated in molding catalogues from Hiland Wood  
11 Products, Walnut Creek, Ohio and American Hardwood, Columbia  
12 Station, Ohio, which are incorporated herein by reference.

13 Referring to FIGS. 8 and 9, an adapter or stepform 60 for  
14 applying multiple rows of the moldings 10 is shown. The adapter  
15 or stepform 60 is an elongate sheet, for example 6 to 18 inches  
16 wide, from 1/16 to 1/2, more preferably 1/4 to 5/16 or 3/8,  
17 inches thick and of any convenient length, such as at least 30,  
18 50, 75, 100 or 120 feet. The adapter 60 is preferably of the  
19 same flexible plastic foam material as the member 16, except  
20 preferably a little more dense; preferably having a density of  
21 1.6-9, more preferably 2-6, more preferably 3-4, more preferably  
22 about 3, lbs. per cubic foot. Less preferably it is a plastic  
23 material which is resilient, flexible and coilable, such as solid  
24 or lightweight plastic. The adapter may be, for example 8 inches  
25 wide and 3/8 inch thick and have a series of longitudinal scoring  
26 or fold grooves 62. The grooves 62 may be on either the front  
27 or back side or both, preferably the back. The grooves are  
28 spaced to provide convenient selection of spacing between folds,  
29 for example, 1/2 or 3/4 inch to accommodate various combinations  
30 of molding sizes. The peripheral portions of the back side of  
31 the adapter 60 are provided with pressure sensitive adhesive 64,  
32 66 and release strips 68, 70, respectively. Other strips or  
33 layers of pressure sensitive adhesive (with release strips), such  
34 as illustrated at 71a, 71b, 71c, 71d and 71e, may optionally be  
35 added longitudinally between each pair of adjacent grooves 62.

1 The adapter 60 is manufactured and packaged in rolls as described  
2 above and installed with a tool like tool 40 except that the  
3 profile following surface 46 is shaped to correspond to the shape  
4 of the adapter 60 as installed.

5 In use, the adapter 60 is folded on desired grooves 62 to  
6 form a generally rectangular cross section (in combination with  
7 the wall 12 and the ceiling 14), preferably 3.5 x 3.5 inches.  
8 Release strips 68, 70 are removed and, using a tool 40, the  
9 adapter 60 is attached to the top portion of the wall 12 and to  
10 the edge portion of the ceiling 14. Then as described above and  
11 using tool 40, a crown molding or molding 10 is attached between  
12 the adapter 60 and the ceiling 14. Another row of molding 10 is  
13 attached between the wall 12 and the adapter 60. In this way,  
14 the adapter 60 serves as an intermediate attachment point for the  
15 rows of moldings and permits a much larger and more complex total  
16 molding surface to be installed. Note how a portion 61 of the  
17 adapter 60 forms a portion of the exposed molding surface. If  
18 the adapter 60 is folded further away from the adhesive (such as  
19 at location 63) so that a flat portion of adapter 60 between 64  
20 and 63 is against the wall, the adapter 60 may also be stapled  
21 to the wall at location 65 for extra support. Alternatively, a  
22 layer of pressure sensitive adhesive, such as at 71a, 71b, 71c,  
23 71d or 71e, on the adapter 60 (with release strip removed) may  
24 serve the function of the staple.

25 The moldings disclosed herein are much less expensive than  
26 those of materials such as wood. Because the molding is light  
27 and flexible, it can be quickly installed with few tools. No  
28 unsightly nail holes are created and no sawing is required  
29 because the molding can be cut with a sharp knife. This also  
30 lowers the level of skill required for installation.

31 It should be evident that this disclosure is by way of  
32 example and that various changes may be made by adding, modifying  
33 or eliminating details without departing from the fair scope of  
34 the teaching contained in this disclosure. The invention is  
35 therefore not limited to particular details of this disclosure

1    except to the extent that the following claims are necessarily  
2    so limited.



## WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1        1. An architectural molding, said molding comprising:  
 2        an extruded flexible plastic foam member having a front  
 3        side, a rear side and a cross sectional profile;  
 4        a layer of pressure sensitive adhesive affixed to at least  
 5        a portion of said rear side; and  
 6        a release strip releasibly adhered to said layer of  
 7        pressure sensitive adhesive.

1        2. A molding according to claim 1, wherein said molding is  
 2        packaged in a continuous length greater than 30 feet.

1        3. A molding according to claim 1, wherein said cross  
 2        sectional profile provides nesting of multiple layers of said  
 3        molding.

1        4. A molding according to claim 1, wherein said front side  
 2        is paintable.

1        5. A molding according to claim 1, wherein said foam member  
 2        is pre-colored.

1        6. A molding according to claim 1, wherein said front side  
 2        is corona treated to accept paint.

1        7. A molding according to claim 1, wherein said front side  
 2        is pre-primed to accept paint.

1        8. A molding according to claim 1, wherein said molding is  
 2        packaged in a roll.

1        9. A molding according to claim 1, wherein said molding is  
 2        adapted for application on a base portion of a wall, said release  
 3        strip being removed from said pressure sensitive adhesive and

4 said pressure sensitive adhesive being adhered to said base  
5 portion.

1 10. A molding according to claim 1, wherein said molding  
2 is adapted for application on a mid-portion of a wall, said  
3 release strip being removed from said pressure sensitive adhesive  
4 and said pressure sensitive adhesive being adhered to said mid-  
5 portion.

1 11. A molding according to claim 1, wherein said front side  
2 has a surface which has a front surface profile, said front  
3 surface profile having a profile of crown molding.

1 12. A molding according to claim 1, wherein said profile  
2 is constant.

1 13. A molding according to claim 1, wherein said profile  
2 is adapted to span from a top portion of a wall to an edge  
3 portion of a ceiling.

1 14. A molding according to claim 1, wherein said member is  
2 made of a flexible plastic foam material selected from the group  
3 consisting of polyethylene, rubber latex, polypropylene,  
4 polyurethane and polyvinyl chloride.

1 15. A molding according to claim 1, wherein said member is  
2 made of polyethylene foam.

1 16. A method for installing an architectural molding to a  
2 structure, said method comprising:

3 providing said molding, said molding having:

4 an extruded flexible plastic foam member having a  
5 front side, a rear side and a cross sectional  
6 profile;

7 a layer of pressure sensitive adhesive affixed to at

8           least a portion of said rear side; and  
9           a release strip releasibly adhered to said layer of  
10           pressure sensitive adhesive;  
11       removing a portion of said release strip to expose a  
12           portion of said pressure sensitive adhesive;  
13       adhering said exposed portion to said structure;  
14       flexing a portion of said molding not yet adhered to said  
15           structure away from said structure and removing an  
16           additional portion of said release strip to expose an  
17           additional portion of said pressure sensitive  
18           adhesive; and  
19       adhering said additional portion to said structure.

20           17. A method according to claim 16, further comprising  
21           applying a desired aesthetic coating to said molding.

22           18. A method according to claim 16, further comprising  
23           joining segments of said molding with a butt-joint or a mitered  
24           joint.

25           19. A method according to claim 16, further comprising  
26           joining abutting portions of said molding with heat bonding or  
27           adhesive bonding.

28           20. A tool for the application of an architectural molding  
29           between a wall and a ceiling, said molding having a front side,  
30           a rear side and a cross sectional profile, said tool comprising:  
31           a ceiling following surface;  
32           a wall following surface;  
33           a profile following surface; and  
34           a handle, said handle providing a manual grip for sliding  
35           said tool along a wall and ceiling intersection and  
36           said profile following surface providing pressure  
37           resistive support to a central portion of said  
38           profile, while permitting respective outer portions of

12 said profile to be pressed against said wall and said  
13 ceiling.

1 21. A tool according to claim 20, wherein said ceiling  
2 following surface and said wall following surface are provided  
3 by an element having a generally right angle cross section, said  
4 element having a first inside surface, a second inside surface,  
5 a first outside surface corresponding to said ceiling following  
6 surface and a second outside surface corresponding to said wall  
7 following surface, and wherein said profile following surface is  
8 provided by a block of flexible plastic foam having a surface  
9 matching said central portion of said profile and surfaces  
10 attached to said first and said second inside surfaces.

11 22. A tool according to claim 21, wherein said handle is  
12 provided by an extension from said element adapted for gripping.

13 23. A method for installing an architectural molding  
14 between a wall and a ceiling, said method comprising:

15 providing said molding, said molding having:

- 16 an extruded flexible plastic foam member having a
- 17 front side, a rear side and a profile;
- 18 a pressure sensitive adhesive affixed to at least a
- 19 portion of said rear side; and
- 20 a release strip releasibly adhered to said pressure
- 21 sensitive adhesive;

22 providing a tool having:

- 23 a ceiling following surface;
- 24 a wall following surface;
- 25 a profile following surface; and
- 26 a handle, said handle providing a manual grip for
- 27 sliding said tool along a wall and ceiling
- 28 intersection and said profile following surface
- 29 providing pressure resistive support to a central
- 30 portion of said profile, while permitting

19                respective outer portions of said profile to be  
 20                pressed against said wall and said ceiling;  
 21        placing said tool against said intersection;  
 22        removing a portion of said release strip to expose a wall  
 23                portion and a ceiling portion of said pressure  
 24                sensitive adhesive;  
 25        placing said central portion against said profile following  
 26                surface and adhering said wall portion to said wall  
 27                and said ceiling portion to said ceiling;  
 28        flexing a portion of said molding not yet adhered to said  
 29                wall or ceiling away from said wall or ceiling,  
 30                respectively, and removing an additional portion of  
 31                said release strip to expose an additional portion of  
 32                said pressure sensitive adhesive;  
 33        sliding said tool to cooperate with said flexed portion;  
 34                and  
 35        adhering said additional portion of said pressure sensitive  
 36                adhesive to said wall or ceiling.

1        24. An architectural molding adapter comprising:  
 2        an elongate sheet of plastic material having a back side  
 3                and a front side;  
 4        a plurality of longitudinal fold grooves in said sheet;  
 5        a pressure sensitive adhesive affixed to longitudinal  
 6                peripheral portions of said back side; and  
 7        a release strip releasibly adhered to said pressure  
 8                sensitive adhesive, said adapter being adapted to  
 9                provide an intermediate attachment point for multiple  
 10                rows of crown molding when said adapter is folded  
 11                along a plurality of said fold grooves into a  
 12                generally rectangular cross section structure when  
 13                attached to a wall and ceiling.

1        25. A method for installing multiple rows of pressure  
 2        sensitive adhesive backed crown molding, said method comprising:

3 providing an elongate sheet of plastic material having a  
4 back side and a front side, a plurality of  
5 longitudinal fold grooves in said sheet, a pressure  
6 sensitive adhesive affixed to longitudinal peripheral  
7 portions of said back side and a release strip  
8 releasibly adhered to said pressure sensitive  
9 adhesive;  
10 folding said sheet along a plurality of said fold grooves  
11 to form a generally rectangular cross section in  
12 combination with a wall and a ceiling;  
13 removing at least a portion of said release strip;  
14 attaching said folded sheet to a top portion of said wall  
15 and to an edge portion of said ceiling;  
16 attaching a first row of said molding between said ceiling  
17 and said folded sheet; and  
18 attaching a second row of said molding between said folded  
19 sheet and said wall.

1

2  
3  
4  
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7

FIG. 1

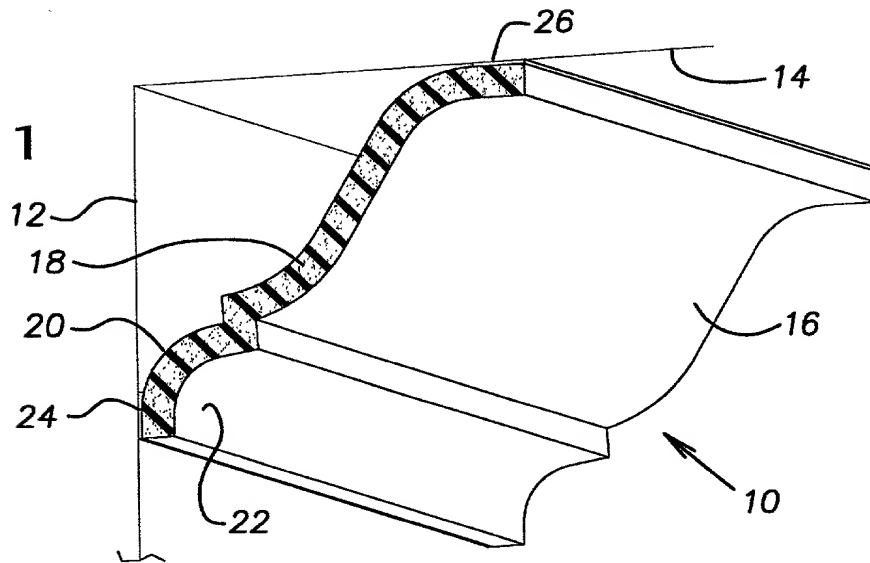


FIG. 2

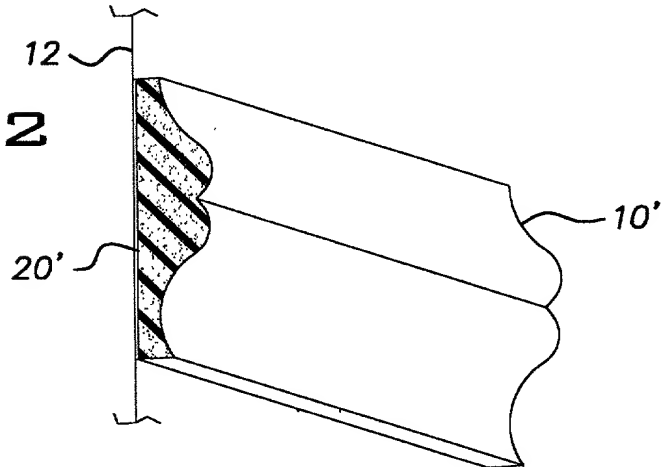
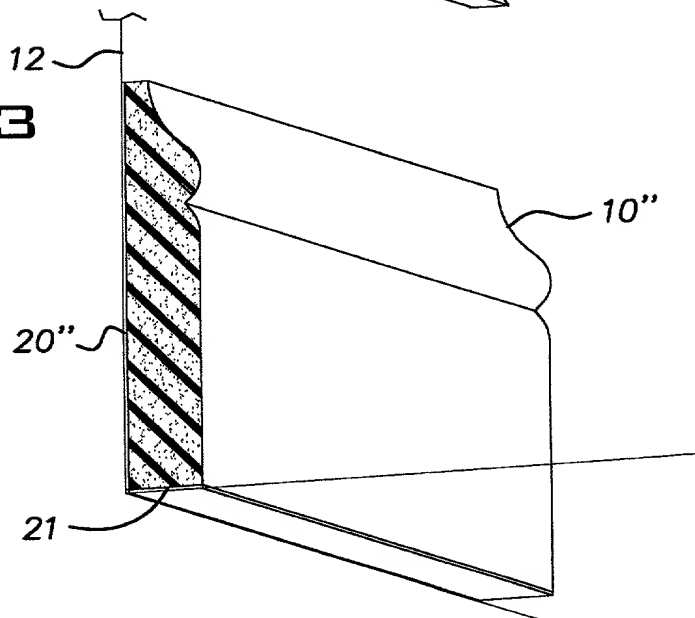


FIG. 3





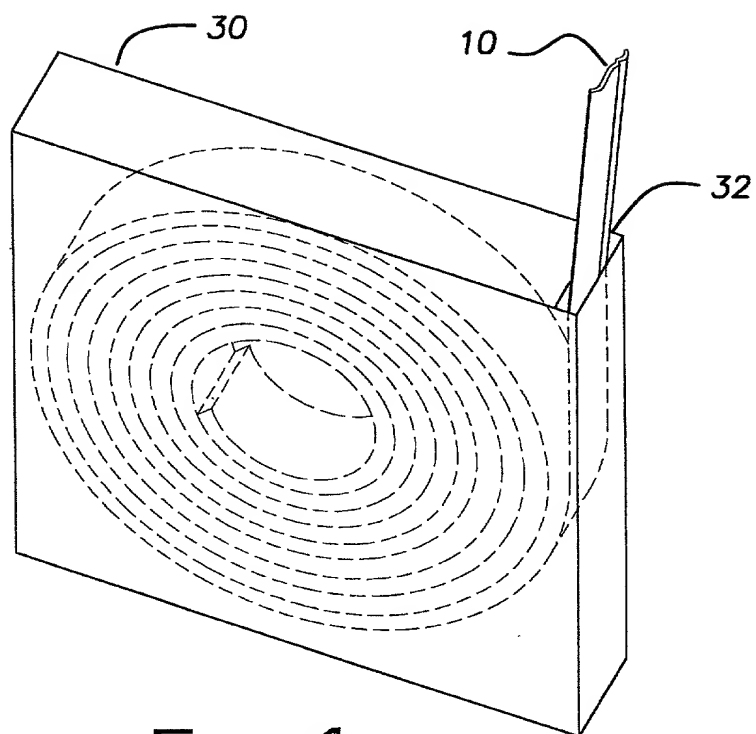


FIG. 4

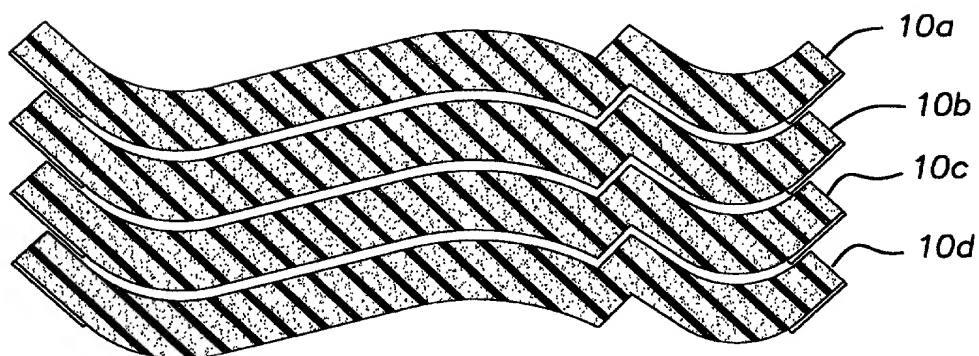


FIG. 5

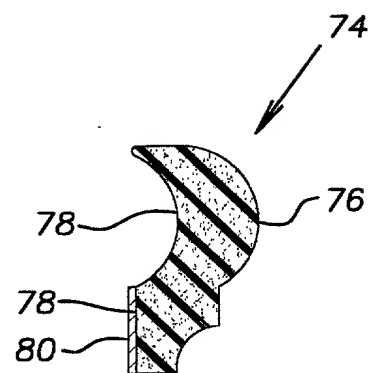
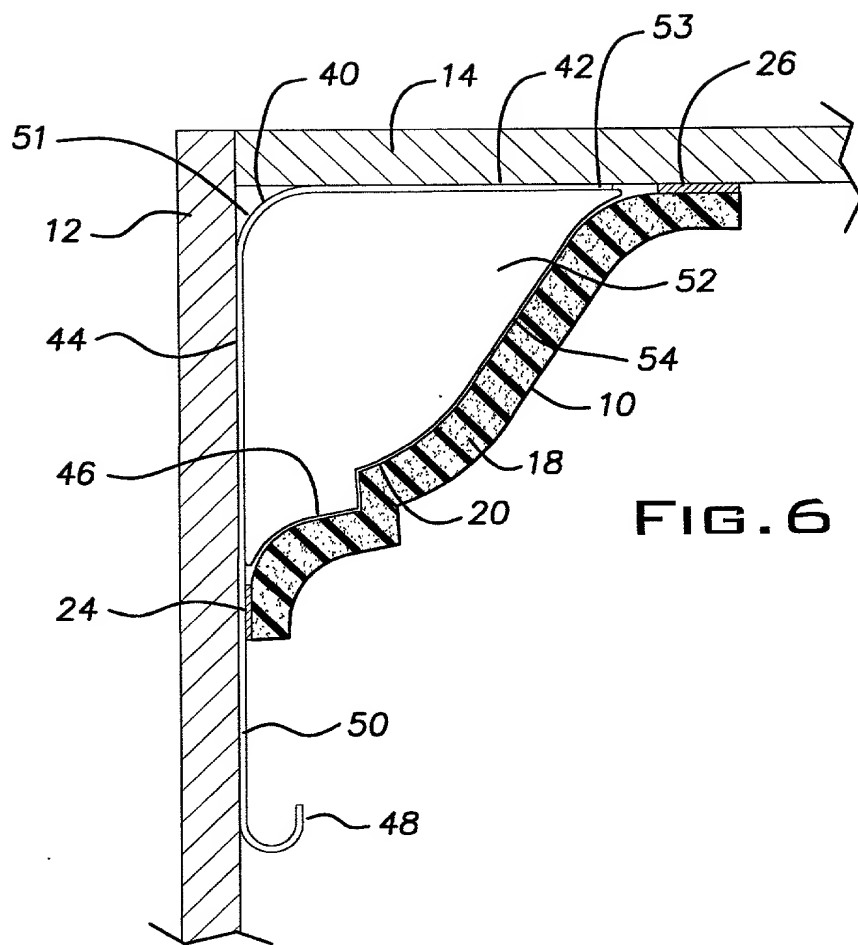
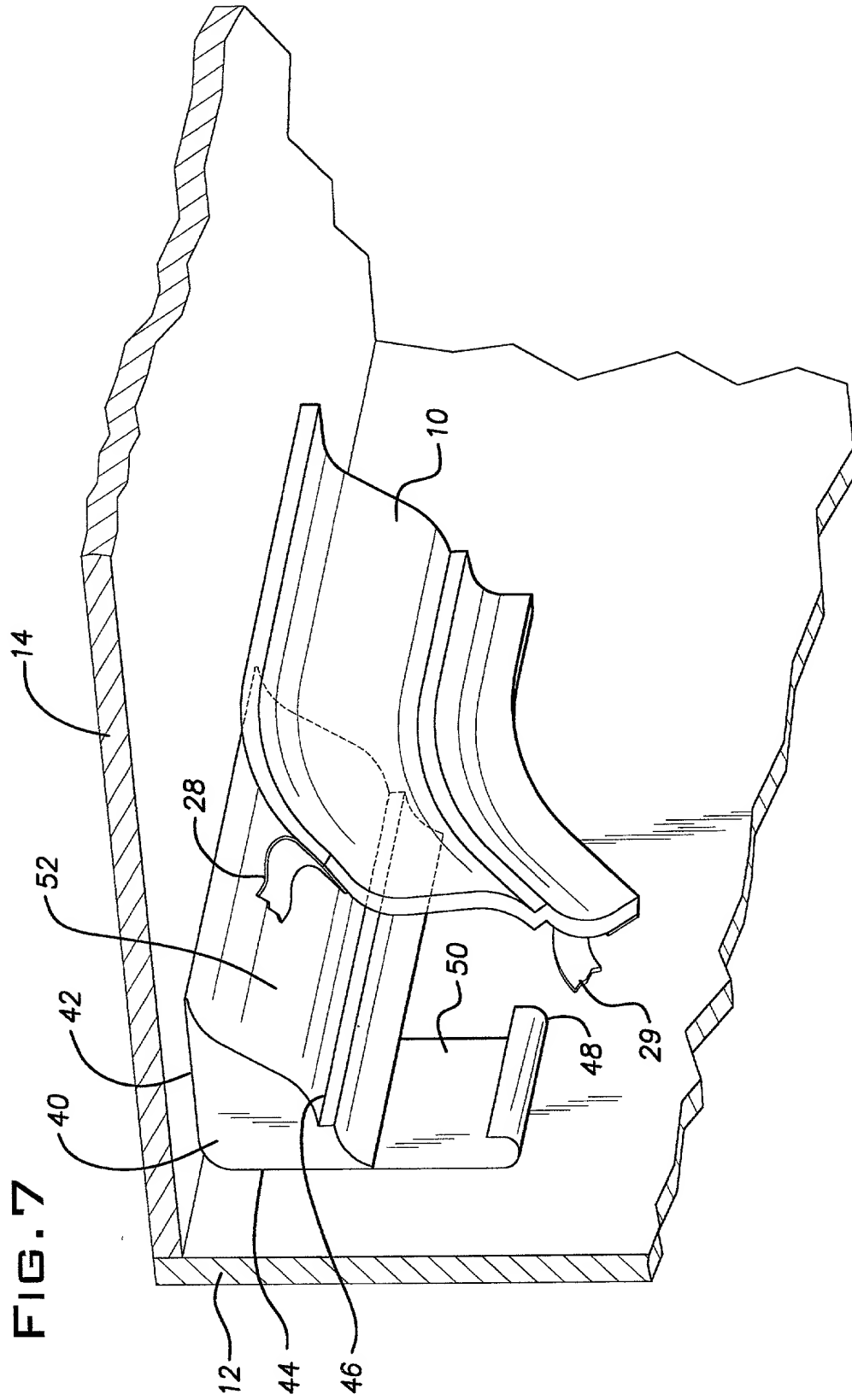


FIG. 7



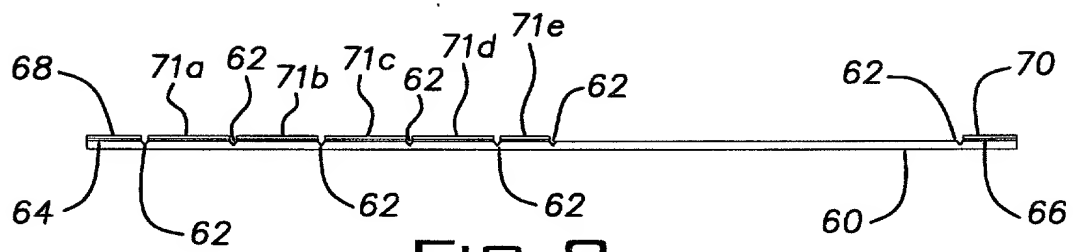


FIG. 8

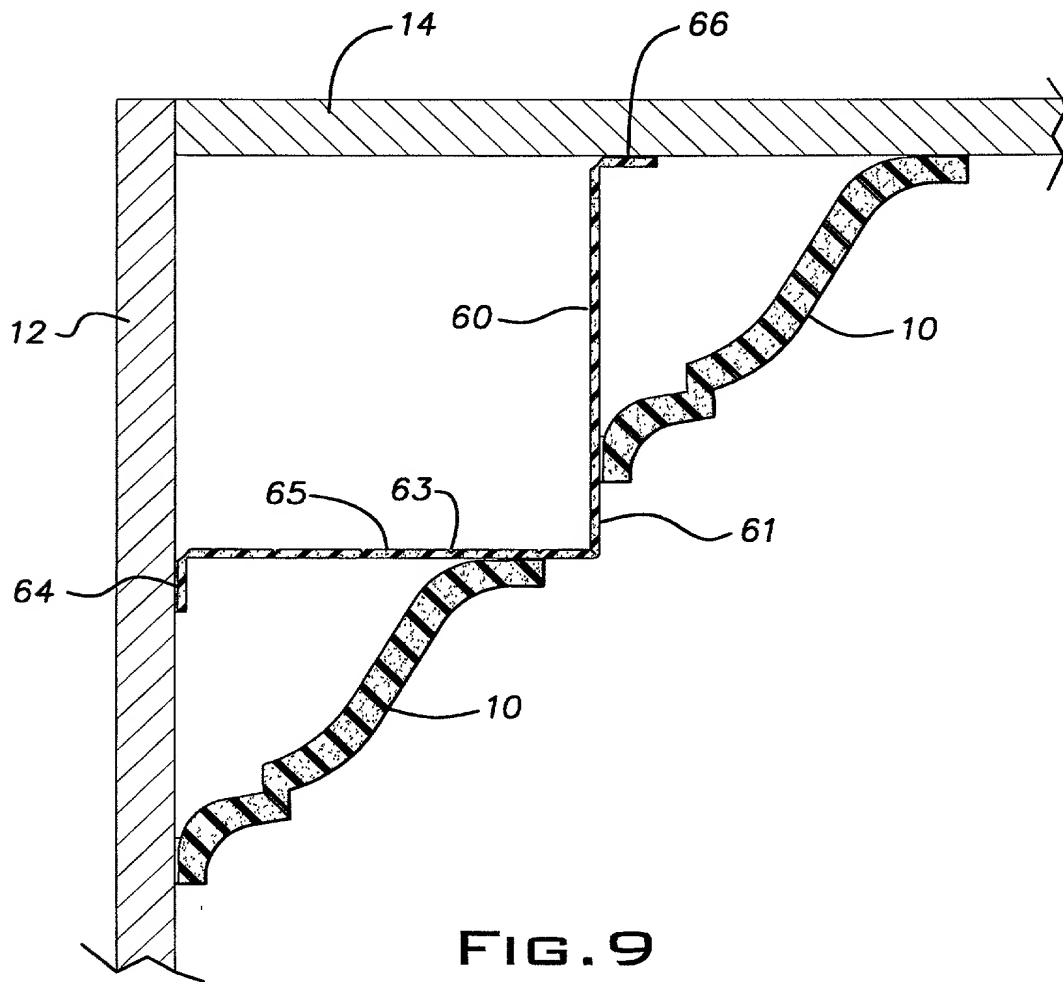


FIG. 9

# DECLARATION AND POWER OF ATTORNEY FOR UTILITY OR DESIGN PATENT APPLICATION

☒ Submitted with Initial Filing

☐ Submitted after Initial Filing  
(Surcharge (37 CFR 1.16(e)) required)

Attorney Docket No.: 30349

Application Number: \_\_\_\_\_

First Named Inventor: Scott D. Maurer

Filing Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Group Art Unit: \_\_\_\_\_

Examiner Name: \_\_\_\_\_

**As a below named inventor, I hereby declare that:**

My residence, post office address, and citizenship are as stated below next to my name.

I believe I am the original, first and sole inventor (if only one name is listed below) or an original, first and joint inventor (if plural names are listed below) of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention entitled:

## ARCHITECTURAL MOLDING

the specification of which (check only one item below)

☒ is attached hereto,

OR

☐ was filed on (MM/DD/YYYY) \_\_\_\_\_ as United States Application Number or PCT International Application Number \_\_\_\_\_ and was amended on (MM/DD/YYYY) \_\_\_\_\_ (if applicable).

I hereby state that I have reviewed and understand the contents of the above-identified specification, including the claims, as amended by any amendment specifically referred to above.

I acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is material to patentability as defined in 37 CFR 1.56.

As a named inventor, I hereby appoint each of the following as my attorneys with full power of substitution and revocation, to prosecute this application and to transact all business in the Patent and Trademark Office connected therewith:

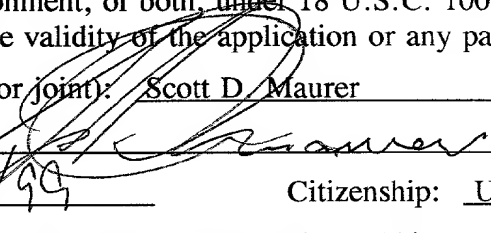
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Please direct all correspondence and inquiries to John P. Murtaugh at (216) 579-1700.

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under 18 U.S.C. 1001 and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

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Signature:   
Date: 6/22/99 Citizenship: United States of America  
Residence (City, State, Country): Rocky River, Ohio, U.S.A.  
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